

**Before The
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D. C.**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Application of Alltel Communications, Inc.)	
)	Docket No. 03-109
)	
For Temporary Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Under the Alternative Designation Process)	
Communications Act of 1934, as amended)	

**APPLICATION OF ALLTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR TEMPORARY
DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER UNDER THE
ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATION PROCESS**

INTRODUCTION

Alltel Communications, Inc., on behalf of both itself and its wholly-owned and controlled licensed affiliates (“Alltel”), hereby petitions the Commission as a wireless carrier for designation as a Temporary Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) pursuant to the special procedures established by the Commission under its *Order, In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45 (rel. October 14, 2005) (“*Katrina Order*”).

BACKGROUND

In the *Katrina Order*, the Commission adopted, pursuant to Section 10(a) forbearance authority, temporary modifications to its low income program rules to improve the effectiveness of low-income support mechanisms directed to meeting the needs of victims of Hurricane Katrina. Subscriber eligibility requirements for the

Commission's temporary lifeline program¹ were based upon the eligibility criteria used by FEMA to provide individual disaster housing assistance to affected and displaced residents of the designated disaster area, many of the counties in which are within Alltel's service footprint. As an ETC otherwise designated under Section 214(e) of the Act, Alltel has a long and established track record of providing universal services to both low-income consumers and those who reside in high-cost areas of the United States. Alltel has submitted to the Commission at its request a detailed showing of the benefits and services it has voluntarily provided to subscribers affected by Hurricane Katrina, including free minutes of use, free long distance, payment deferrals, and deferral of disconnect notices.

Alltel is an ETC in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Wyoming, and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. In many of the Company's recently acquired ETC service areas, there are several thousand Lifeline and Enhanced Lifeline subscribers. Alltel fully intends to continue promoting Lifeline as a viable service offering for consumers who otherwise could not afford telecommunications service separate and apart from the temporary ETC status requested herein under the Katrina Order.

¹ Inasmuch as Alltel is seeking temporary ETC designation exclusively as a wireless carrier, it seeks qualification herein exclusively for the temporary lifeline program. As with the provision of wireless ETC service generally, Alltel intends to provide the covered services through a combination of both facilities based and resold services.

REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION

Alltel submits its application to be designated a temporary ETC for the purposes of offering the temporary lifeline support under the streamlined process set forth at paragraphs 19-24 of the Katrina Order separate and apart from its existing ETC status.² Attached hereto is a description of Alltel's plans to provide supported services to both new and existing subscribers under the temporary program including the number and types of minutes offered, the brand and model of the handset (where handset is provided), its licensed service area, as well as any conditions or limitations associated with its plans (see Exhibit 1). The "Katrina Lifeline Rate Plan," as it will be called, is limited to one plan per household pursuant to the terms of the *Katrina Order*.

Alltel's construes the scope of the *Katrina Order* to encompass victims of Hurricane Katrina that qualify for FEMA relief without regard to whether or not they remain within the geographic boundaries of the disaster area, a particular carrier's licensed service area, or are new or current subscribers. In order to provide the supported service to those FEMA qualified existing subscribers who have been displaced without regard to their location, Alltel requests temporary ETC designation on a national scope.

Alltel's proposed Katrina service offering consists of three plans that will be offered throughout Alltel's "legacy" markets (See Exhibit 1 for coverage maps under existing rate plans.)³. Plan One is a prepaid service for FEMA qualified new subscribers that provides both a free phone and 300 "anytime" minutes (i.e. not subject to time of day

² It is Alltel's intent for accounting purposes to segregate the temporary ETC program from its other activities and file a separate FCC Form 497 with USAC.

restrictions) of use and free roaming within the designated service area. Plan Two is a plan designed to afford FEMA qualified existing pre-paid platform subscribers that already have a phone and number with the benefit of the temporary lifeline support by crediting their accounts with \$130. Minutes of use will be charged going forward after proof of FEMA qualification has been provided at the prepaid plan's rate or 25 cents for the pay-as-you-go plan, which translates to approximately 520 minutes of use. Finally, Plan Three is a plan designed to afford FEMA qualified existing post-paid subscribers the benefit of the temporary lifeline support. The Plan Three program will provide a credit of \$130 to FEMA qualified existing post-paid subscribers on a going forward basis after proof of FEMA qualification has been provided. Depending on the customer's rate plan, the credit could translate to well over 1,000 minutes of use. Alltel's plans are subject to the restrictions and terms contained in the Exhibit 1 as well as the general terms and conditions of Alltel's service for the underlying rate plan, and in particular, included roaming areas. Due to numbering resource considerations and limitations, Alltel will reclaim the numbers issued to accounts under the supported prepaid plans unless the customer chooses to remain an Alltel subscriber under prevailing rates and terms, and cancel any unused minutes as of September 1, 2006. The September 1, 2006 date is based upon a projected minimum use of 50 minutes per month for a six-month period beginning on the date of the program's termination, March 1, 2005.

³ Alltel limits its temporary Katrina service offering only to those areas of service in its pre-Western Wireless merger markets inasmuch as the Western market areas are in the process of transition for operational purposes, and Alltel's legacy markets form the core of its service territory along the Gulf Coast.

Alltel submits an Affidavit, signed by a corporate officer who is familiar with universal service issues, that the Company intends to offer Lifeline services to qualifying consumers in a manner that is consistent with the *Katrina Order* (see Exhibit 2).

Finally, as required by the *Katrina Order* Alltel provides the following description of how it intends to advertise the availability of the Lifeline service. Alltel will continue to advertise the Lifeline services in a manner similar to how it advertises Lifeline currently. The Company will post information on its website at www.Alltel.com/Lifeline. Additionally, it will seek to have its name included on the web sites of both the Commission's Bureau of Consumer and Governmental Affairs and the Universal Service Administrative Company's ("USAC") at www.universalservice.org as a carrier participating in the Temporary Katrina Relief program. Furthermore, Alltel will advertise the availability of the temporary Katrina relief service offering in newspapers of general circulation throughout the Company's service area. Existing subscribers will also be contacted through direct marketing efforts including text messaging and bill inserts. Through these various mechanisms of outreach, it is anticipated that evacuees of Katrina will be notified about the Katrina Lifeline Rate Plan and will take advantage of the Alltel offering without regard to where they may be physically located.

In an effort to comply with the FCC's Lifeline certification and verification requirements, Alltel will document subscribers through a certification and verification process (see Exhibit 3). This certification checklist will ensure that the program is not subject to fraud and abuse.

CONCLUSION

Based on the requirements of the *Katrina Order*, Alltel respectfully requests that the Commission designate Alltel as a Temporary ETC through March 1, 2006, pursuant to the terms of the *Katrina Order* and as set forth herein.

Respectfully submitted
Alltel Communications, Inc.

By: _____/s/
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